

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 00292 111927Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 /136 W

-----112034Z 008555 /41

R 111902Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6203

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 0292

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, VE

SUBJECT: REPORTED MEETING OF FOUR OPEC OIL MINISTERS

REF: 1) DOHA 23 2) ABU DHABI 117

1. WE CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY THAT MINISTER HERNANDEZ COULD HAVE PARTICIPATED IN GENEVA MEETING JANUARY 8 SINCE HE APPARENTLY REMAINED IN VENEZUELA OVER WEEKEND. HERNANDEZ DEFINITELY WAS HERE EARLY EVENING OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 7 FOR SWEARING-IN CEREMONY AFTER LAST WEEK'S CABINET CHANGES. SUNDAY PRESS CARRIED STORY DATED LINED CARACAS REPORTING MINISTER'S STATEMENT OF PREVIOUS DAY ON NEW U.A.E. OIL PRICES. FINALLY, HIGH MINISTRY OFFICIAL
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PAGE 02 CARACA 00292 111927Z

TOLD EMBOFF MORNING OF JANUARY 10 THAT MINISTER WAS "IN HIS OFFICE WORKING ON NEW RESPONSIBILITIES". AS RESULT OF CABINET CHANGES, MINISTER HERNANDEZ HAS NOW BEEN GIVEN FORMAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL ENERGY MATTERS UNDER NEW TITLE OF MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES.

2. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT HERNANDEZ MAY NOT HAVE INTENDED

TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING. HE IS LIKELY TO PLAY KEY ROLE
AS MEDIATOR IN OPEC'S INTERNAL DISPUTE, AND MAY SIMPLY HAVE
BEEN PREVENTED FROM PARTICIPATING BY CABINET CHANGES.

3. IN JANUARY 8 STATEMENT ON U.A.E. PRICES, HERNANDEZ REPORTEDLY
SAID THAT EMIRATES HAD RAISED PRICES 5 TO 7 PERCENT, WITH
EXTRA 2 PERCENT DUE TO CHANGE IN PRICE DIFFERENTIALS, AND
THAT THIS DEMONSTRATED THAT THERE WAS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY
OF MAINTAINING A FLEXIBLE POSITION. STORY APPEARED IN LOCAL
PRESS SUNDAY MORNING ALTHOUGH REF 2 INDICATES NEW PRICES WERE
NOT ANNOUNCED IN ABU DHABI UNTIL SUNDAY EVENING.
VAKY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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